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## NARRATIVE REPORT

Extension Specialist in Clothing  
and Home Furnishing, California.

Miss Jessie-Lee F. Decker

June, 1921.

### SAN DIEGO COUNTY

The first week in June the specialist spent in San Diego County in conference with the agent and the clothing specialist.

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Beginning the second week and closely following the outlines for the Home Furnishing Project, the specialist and agent held the first meetings of the project. In each center adopting the project two living rooms were given as demonstration rooms, the women agreeing to follow out the plans given by the specialist, assisted by the agent and project leader.

The meetings began promptly at 10 o'clock. Every woman was present, also the husband of the demonstrator. Promptness and full attendance marked every meeting. The keen interest of all was a great inspiration to the specialist and agent.

At the morning session a general talk on the principles of home furnishing was first given and questions answered about topics discussed and the general plan and color scheme of the room.

The first meeting was held at El Cajon in a new house with nail kegs, a carpenter's bench, and a tool-chest as the only furnishings. Every thing is to be bought, even the kitchen stove. The house is small and of the typical "colonial bungalow" type. The living room is the largest room in the house. It has a lovely ivory shelf mantel with green tile hearth and is well lighted with casement windows, which call for simple net curtaining to soften the light. The pine floor is to be filled and varnished, the walls are to be deep cream with a lighter toned ceiling. The wood-work throughout the house is to be ivory. A large rush rug with three small domestic rugs are to be used on the floor. The general color scheme of the room is to be ivory, mulberry, and soft green. The davenport will be upholstered in a mulberry and beige brocade design with two soft green cushions, two brown mahogany chairs, and a brown mahogany reading table with a green and mulberry scarf. Mulberry green drapes at the open doorway and a couple of natural colored wicker chairs and a large wicker table complete the scheme and make the room usable for a dining room as well as a living room.

After luncheon the second home was visited by all present at the morning session.

At the afternoon session no general talk was made but the principles developed in the morning were applied in solving the problems presented.

This room was all redwood, and was very dark and gloomy, as the two rooms opening into it were finished in the same wood. An extremely homely mantel piece made of concrete closely stuck with various size, shaped, and colored pebbles dominated the room. A large green rug rewoven of smaller much-worn rugs made a good foreground for the few pieces of furniture in the room. Fortunately three small straight chairs of Victorian walnut and a good table also of walnut but covered with a regular Mother Hubbard cloth (which is to be replaced with a smaller cover of Japanese calico) are the main pieces of furniture. The two windows in the room were very badly curtained with coarse net. The suggestions for changing the room were as follows:

Pongee curtains pushed well back to allow all the light possible to come into the room (window-width pongee may be had at present at a very low cost). A pongee curtain, double shirred on rods at the top and lower edges like French window drapes, was planned to cover the over-mantel "rockery". Two medium sized Japanese prints mounted on pongee mats and framed in simple brown frames are to hang on the dark sides of the room to catch and hold the light from the windows. Two small green vases on the mantel with a brass clock repeat the rug color. The use of color and color harmony has been stressed in each home, and many questions have been answered on the subject.

The second day in Encinitas in the first home visited more carpenter work, changing windows, making fireplace, and plaster-boarding the walls had to be done than in any of the other homes. Plans and dimensions were given for the fireplace.

Two large and badly worn art squares are to be stripped and rewoven into one large one. The woodwork and lath strips on the plaster board are to be painted old ivory; the plaster board walls are to be deep cream with a lighter ceiling; the pine floor has to be patched where it is badly worn and then painted sand color. The general color scheme to be followed is cream, green, and brown. Two chairs are to be stained dark brown to match an old-fashioned walnut table, and two natural colored wicker chairs are to be added. The specialist and agent called later to talk over the plans with the husband, who was too busy with his crop to attend the meeting but expects to do all the work himself.

At the afternoon meeting the main problem was furniture, picture, and ornament arrangement. One more bookcase is to be built to balance the size of the room with the lovely large new fireplace, an old-fashioned piano and stairway opening forming the balance for the opposite side. The large faded portieres at the double opening are to be replaced by new monks cloth curtains and the old ones dyed dull gray and blue and made into two large oval braided rugs. All of the pictures are to be removed from the walls and the ornaments are to be regrouped on the bookcase and mantel. The whole appearance of this room was a restless conglomerate jumble of a wall freckled with pictures and a lot of poorly arranged but good bric-a-brac, but it will develop into a quite restful interesting room with good ornaments, principally East Indian brasses, arranged to show to their best advantage, and the wide plain board floors will be softened and made homey with large hand-braided rugs. Several chairs are to be done over, cut down and refinished.



The one living room to be done over at Fallbrook is to be one of the most interesting in the whole country. Not more than \$10 will be spent. The house is of the light California portable house type. Two large rooms open together and are to be treated alike. New rag rugs are to be made for the floors, and the curtains are to be of unbleached muslin, embroidered in colored yarns. One old-fashioned walnut sofa is to be restrapped, braced, padded and re-upholstered in a figured design, with a couple of wool embroidered cushions. A small book stand is to be built for the other room, and the chairs are to be refinished.

One home in Bonsall was an old house with high ceilings, long windows, and dark burlap covered walls. The living room is a long, narrow, dark room with two doors and one window. The entrance to the room is either through a long narrow hall or through the kitchen. The first suggestion of the specialist was to make double French doors in place of the one window, then to remove the burlap and canvas and paper the walls with a light atmospheric gray and cream paper and to scrape the floor and paint with gray rubber cement floor paint. There were too many rugs, so only the most harmonious ones are to be left. The pictures are to be rehung and the furniture rearranged. Several pieces of furniture are to be done over.

The afternoon meeting was held in a very old-fashioned crudely constructed house. The living room is long and narrow. It is well lighted with many small-paned windows, a good fireplace with a white mantel and an old-fashioned, colonial type fireplace are in one end of the room. A large double door opening into the dining room balances the other end of the room. The walls are papered yellow and the wood work is cream white. There is no furniture. The problem was to suggest the best type of furniture for the least amount of money. A box couch to be covered with cretonne, three wicker chairs with cretonne cushions, two deal chairs and a deal table to be painted black are to be used. The floor is to be painted sand color, and rag rugs are to be used.

In the demonstration living room in Vista new curtains were suggested and two chairs and one settee are to be reupholstered; the materials were chosen at the demonstration. Two very bad pictures were eliminated and the mantel shelf rearranged. The floors are to be "patched" and revarnished.

In Escondido the two rooms offered for demonstration had so little to do in them that two new rooms were chosen for which the project leader and agent are to make suggestions for changes. In one of the rooms new curtains were suggested and four chairs are to be painted. In the other home one small settee is to be re-covered and the pictures were to be rehung.

In Alpine the specialist had one house for demonstration for which suggestions had been made last year, so results were checked up on and further suggestions were made for curtaining and new furniture.

In the other house, a fireplace is to be built, furniture is to be re-upholstered, pictures are to be rehung, many ornaments are to be eliminated,

and the entire room is to be rearranged. The demonstrator is carrying out some suggestions made by the specialist for a glassed-in porch. The color scheme is black, orange, and blue. Suggestions were also made for enlarging the dining room, a bedroom and adding a bathroom and breakfast porch.

FOLLOWING THE DEMONSTRATIONS IN THE HOMES, THREE ZONE PROJECT LEADER TRAINING MEETINGS FOR GIVING METHODS WERE HELD. MIMEOGRAPHED SHEETS ON THE TOPICS WERE GIVEN OUT AND EXPLAINED. MANY QUESTIONS WERE ASKED AND A ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION WAS HELD ON THE PRINCIPLES IN HOME FURNISHING FOR A LIVING ROOM IN A RURAL HOME.

Interior wood work painting and window treatments (stencil material) sent with May report.

House furnishing.

Off. Ext. Work North and West  
Home Dem. Sect.

Ext. work with women 4/1921  
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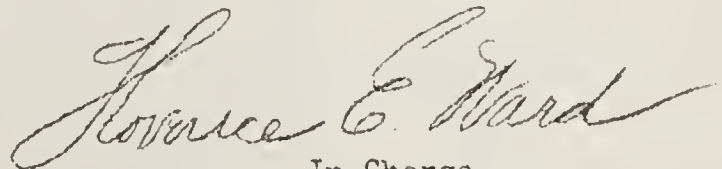
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NORTH AND WEST

The accompanying project for home furnishing work in San Diego County, California, together with the specialist's description of the first two weeks' work in this project, gives a splendid illustration of the application of that cardinal maxim of extension methods of "first plan your work, then work your plan." These extracts are taken from recent monthly reports sent in by the California State leader. Lack of space, not lack of desire, prevents our including the fine report of the San Diego County home demonstration agent which supplements the specialist's report with many human interest stories. The project, the specialist's report, and the agent's report taken together paint a vivid picture of the plan, the work done, the spread of influence expected, the follow-up work contemplated, and the records to be kept, which is available not only for the use of the State leader, but also, through the Washington office, for National publicity purposes and for extension workers interested in the household furnishing project.

Important as is a clear-cut plan for extension work, the most significant feature of this project from the viewpoint of the central office is the fact that it is solidly based upon demonstrations carried on by the woman in her own home, demonstrations which are planned and supervised by specialist and agent and which are rounded out by demonstration meetings held to observe progress made or results accomplished in the home demonstrations. It is further strengthened by provisions for a training school for local leaders, which takes advantage of the interest and enthusiasm created, as well as the subject matter instruction given, at the time the home demonstrators are enrolled.

Home demonstration work, in our judgment, will never be established on a really solid foundation until it is based on home demonstrations, carefully planned and outlined, systematically carried on and supervised and definitely organized as a center of influence in the community and county.

Very truly yours,



In Charge,  
Extension Work with Women.

Enclosures.



